

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

*Meeting October 22, 2008, 12:00p.m.,
in the 1st Floor Conference Room of TransGuide, at 3500 N.W. Loop 410.*

Minutes

1. **Call meeting to order.** Chairman Thornton called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. All Board members present with the exception of H. Muñoz.
2. **Discussion and appropriate action authorizing the Executive Director to undertake necessary steps for the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Alamo RMA, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration on the preparation and development of documents necessary to secure required environmental clearance for the 281 North Project and Loop 1604 project.** T. Brechtel stated that on October 1, 2008, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), at the request of TxDOT, withdrew the environmental clearance for the 281 North project. On October 13, 2008, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff requested that Alamo RMA consider taking the lead role in preparing a new environmental document for capacity improvements to the 281 North corridor and Loop 1604.

T. Brechtel stated that this item would authorize the Executive Director to enter into discussion on a potential memorandum of understanding between TxDOT, FHWA, and the Alamo RMA outlining roles and responsibilities for each party, including the Alamo RMA being the lead agency in the development of environmental documents required to obtain necessary environmental clearance for the 281 North and Loop 1604 projects. T. Brechtel also encouraged Community Organizations to invite the Alamo RMA to come speak to their groups. T. Brechtel stated that due to the Environmental Clearance being withdrawn all work for US 281 will cease. No additional capacity lanes are allowed. She did mention however that safety relief work is permissible.

J. Reed stated that the Planning Committee has met and discussed in depth this issue. He stated that this gives the Alamo RMA an opportunity to move forward from the ground up. The Planning Committee believes that the project should become an Environmental Impact Statement rather than the normal Environmental Assessment due to the amount of controversy surrounding this project and the concerns over possible environmental impacts.

T. Brechtel introduced P. Irwin, Director of Engineering and Operations. P. Irwin gave a brief presentation of potential safety improvements. P. Irwin stated that four (4) safety projects have been tentatively identified. Those projects are extending an auxiliary lane North bound US 281, adding a dedicated left turn lane at West bound Evans Road and US 281, adding additional right turn only lane with acceleration lane at East bound Evans Road at US 281, and finally converting right turn only lane South bound US 281 at Stone Oak into a through lane thus beginning 3rd lane on US 281 South bound North of Stone Oak.

P. Irwin stated that further work is necessary for the evaluation of these possible improvements and staff would bring back to the Board detailed recommendations as to impact of these projects at a later meeting.

R. Diaz stated that doing the Environmental Study is an excellent opportunity for the Alamo RMA as it is the local agency responsible for safety of our community and we have a duty to protect our environment.

J. Jenkins stated that his main concern is that the community of Bexar County gets the needed transportation without the use of toll roads.

R. Thompson commented regarding the positives of conducting the Environmental Impact Statement.

J. Reed made the motion to adopt resolution 08-27 as presented to the Board. R. Diaz seconded. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote. Chairman Thornton left shortly before the vote was called

3. **Discussion and appropriate action on the ratification of an application for financial assistance submitted by the Executive Director to the Texas Department of Transportation for project development and related environmental clearance costs for the Loop 1604 and IH 35 projects.** T. Brechtel stated that on October 8, 2008 the Alamo RMA submitted an application for financial assistance, in the form of a toll equity grant for project development, to TxDOT to assist in the preliminary funding for project development costs, and environmental clearance costs, for Loop 1604 project and IH 35 project.

T. Brechtel stated that the item before the Board ratifies the application submitted by the Executive Director which was necessary to be included on the October 30, 2008 agenda for the Texas Transportation Commission. The toll equity would cover a four-year period for environmental clearance and project development will be used to fund feasibility studies, environmental studies, GEC Program management, Alamo RMA Administration, and Public Involvement for both the Loop 1604 and IH 35 projects.

R. Thompson made the motion to adopt resolution 08-28 as presented. R. Diaz seconded. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

4. **Citizens to be heard.** Citizen Mel Borel, San Antonio resident, stated his opinion regarding toll roads and asked the Board to reconsider the original overpass plans for US 281.
5. **Presentation/briefing - Executive Director Report.**
6. **Executive Session.** Chairman Thornton adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m. for an Executive Session. Chairman Thornton stated that Pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Subsection 551.071(1) and Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, the Board would be meeting in Executive Session to Consult with Attorney concerning pending/contemplated litigation on the 281 North Toll project.

Chairman Thornton reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Chairman Thornton stated that the Board was briefed in Executive Session and that no action was taken by the Board.

There being no further business to come before the board, Vice-Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

DR. WILLIAM E. THORNTON, CHAIRMAN

DATE ADOPTED: 12/3/2008

I hereby certify that the above foregoing pages constitute the full, true, and correct minutes of all the proceedings and official records of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority at its meeting on October 22, 2008.

ATTEST: _____
REYNALDO L. DIAZ, JR
SECRETARY/TREASURER